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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

December 27, 1950

Washington, D. C.

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

Recommended reading

for those of you who are recruiting young administrators for government careers, is the article, "Federal Service Attitudes of NIPA Interns," in the autumn issue of Public Administration Review. Authors Karl E. Stromsem and Mitchell Dreese conclude with these telling points:

"It is apparent that the Federal government faces stiff competition for the services of promising administrative talent of the caliber of the National Institute of Public Affairs intern group."

"The attitudes revealed by the former interns toward...opportunities in the Federal government showed that positions exist...sufficiently challenging to grip the imagination and fire the enthusiasm of the most capable college graduates...to produce a high degree of job satisfaction. The data also showed...difficulties in the way of a satisfactory government career. Many...can be alleviated through improvements in management."

"The satisfactions which loomed greatest and the dissatisfactions which were most pronounced among the former interns centered around factors other than pay, job security, and physical working conditions. They pertained to the challenge of a real job to be done, which would provide a genuine sense of accomplishment. Beyond that was the desire for the opportunity to develop and grow through experience of ever increasing responsibility. Any successful program of recruitment, training and supervision of promising young administrators must recognize the motivating quality of these ideals and provide an opportunity for expression."

The marketing lectures

in Jefferson auditorium on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. will be continued through January and February. Professor George Mehren, who is scheduled to reopen the series on January 8 is outstanding, says Harry C. Trelogen, chairman of the committee that arranged the program. Gianinni Foundation professor at the University of California, Mehren's special field of research is in marketing agreements and related regulatory activities of State and Federal agencies. He has been active in the marketing workshops.

An unusual opportunity

to learn about "American Foreign Relations, Policies, and Practices" from a man who has been close to these matters for more than 40 years is offered each spring in the course taught by Nelson T. Johnson. The always enthusiastic seminar has had a wide range of participants from county agents studying at GS on sabbatical leave to State Department Officials.

Now Secretary General of the Far Eastern Commission, Mr. Johnson began his foreign service career in Harbin, Manchuria in 1908. He has served as Minister to Australia, Assistant Secretary of State, and during World War II, he was Ambassador to China.

A number of Eastern Countries most of which have recently acquired sovereignty - including Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan, Israel, Ceylon, Korea, and others - have arranged for Mr. Johnson to train a group of their foreign service officers in how to conduct foreign relations.

Typical GS student,

statistically speaking, is a young man in his late twenties. His job is in the GS-3 to GS-5 range, and he's studying to improve his performance on the job or qualify for advancement.

Those are the reasons given by nearly two-thirds of the people who registered for courses in 1949-50. More than 17 percent of the students are working toward a degree or certificate. For example we had 106 candidates for doctorates, 203 for master's degrees, and more than 400 whose objective was a GS certificate of accomplishment in a special field.

The men outnumbered the women by a slight margin of 53 to 47 percent. While the largest number of students were in their twenties, 107 were under 20 and 41 of them were past 60. Many of our students were just starting their government careers at the grade of GS-1, but we had 38 students rated at GS-14, and 12 at GS-15.

What our neighbors think of us,

is the title of an informative column in the Idaho News Letter, published bi-monthly by the College of Agriculture.

"Our neighbors" are foreign visitors in Idaho under the ECA program. The column tells something about the visitor's background, points up similarities and explains differences in customs and policies in this country and those of his home.

In a recent issue there were interviews with three German agriculturists and a group of Turkish students. The Germans confessed themselves puzzled that Idaho farmers did not cultivate their acres more intensively. The Turkish boys were most enthusiastic about the country fairs, which they said were much like those back home.

An intimate knowledge

of the myriad problems that go with the scheduling of courses added to our appreciation of a recent NEW YORKER comment. It was to the effect that Town Hall in New York is offering the course, You and Your Dollars between 4:00 and 5:30 in the afternoon at a time when most people aren't able to get to the sessions. Lectures on "You and Your Emotions" are delivered between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. THE NEW YORKER believes the reasoning behind this scheduling is obvious. "The office-bound haven't got money enough to worry about management, but possibly because of this, they're in need of help emotionally so they get the auditorium the moment they boys with plenty of time on their hands are through with it. As to what happens when the two groups pass each other in the lobby, we're not quite clear."

This is by way of reminding you that GS schedules for the spring semester are off the press and we hope you will find them of interest-- even to the point of speculating on the reasons why certain courses are scheduled at the times they are. Seriously, each instructor can help us by using the schedule to help students plan registration for the second semester.

A forester in public employment

should understand and be interested in social and economic problems and public policy. This is just as important to his work as technical training, says Dean Cochran, chairman of the committee on personnel administration.

Mr. Cochran made a good case for general education in his talk before the Division of Education of the American Society of Foresters at the fiftieth annual meeting of the Society here, December 13-16.

He stressed the importance of a broad background in the arts and sciences for the prospective forester. He believes that the forestry student should be stimulated-- through counseling and testing while he is in school - to continue study and growth after he gets out of college. "In Forest Service," he said, "we are interested in what the man will be 5 or 10 years after he gets out of college, his potential for wise administration."

Here's the last word

(except for the invitations) on the annual faculty dinner. The place is USDA's fourth wing cafeteria where we met last year. The time is Friday 6:15 p.m., January 19. The program, not a long one, will give old timers and new comers on the staff a chance to get acquainted. Bushrod Allin will preside. O. C. Stine, who had a hand in organizing GS, will tell us about the beginnings thirty years ago. I am looking forward to making my "Report to the Stockholders." After the dinner there will be departmental meetings of committee members and faculty. Those scheduled as this letter goes to press are: Languages and Literature, Mathematics and Statistics, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Technology.

More than two-thirds

of GS staff members have indicated they wish to be covered under the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance System (Public Law 734). Beginning January 1, GS will deduct 1½ percent from the compensation of all of you who voted to participate in the system and will add an equal amount. Staff members not teaching this fall and new members joining the staff will automatically come under this system.

At the Point IV seminar,

December 6, some 30 representatives from various agencies concerned with the program welcomed new member, H. G. Bennett, who has recently been placed in charge of the Technical Cooperation Administration... heard Horace Holmes (OFAR) describe how agricultural education and health know-how are being put to work in India. Mr. Holmes, head of the America-India mission on agriculture, delayed his return to India two days in order to attend the seminar.

As we study the principles on which Point IV is based, and explore the opportunities for realizing them, my conviction deepens that here is a path to peace and harmony and goodwill among nations... worthy of our very best.

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The other members of the staff join me in extending the Season's greetings.

Sincerely yours



Director

